

[2 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

**Savings due to Decentralised Procurement of Foodgrains**

1221. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of money Government would save from the decentralised procurement of foodgrains practice for the current year;

(b) in what way Government would make use of these savings;

(c) whether Government would pass the savings to the farmers or the consumers; and

(d) if so, what is the mechanism adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (d) The quantum of saving would be the difference between the Economic Cost of FCI and the State Government which adopts the Scheme of Decentralized Procurement.

During the year 2000-2001, a saving of Rs. 141.36 crores (provisional) has been effected as a result of the adoption of the Scheme in the three States of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. During the meeting of the Standing Committee of Chief Ministers/Union Ministers held on 6.7.2001, it has been decided that further consultations could be held with the State Governments, and sharing of gains under the scheme will be considered with those States which agree to adopt the scheme.

**Changes in Policies for distribution and disposal of Surplus Stock**

1222. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices has suggested far-reaching changes in the policies governing production,